

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA  
Harrisonburg Division**

**DARLA V. EDWARDS,**

**Plaintiff,**

**v.**

**JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY**

**and**

**VIRGINIA ADVANCED STUDY  
STRATEGIES, INC., DBA “VIRGINIA  
EDUCATION STRATEGIES”  
 (“VES”)**

**and**

**JENNIFER STEVENS**

**Defendants.**

**Civil Action No. 5:23-cv-00074**

**DEFENDANT JMU’S AMENDED RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFF’S  
MOTIONS FOR LEAVE TO WITHDRAW AS COUNSEL AND FOR CONTINUANCE**

COMES NOW Defendant, James Madison University (“JMU”), by counsel, and makes the following AMENDMENT to its earlier Response in Opposition to Plaintiff’s Motions for Leave to Withdraw as Counsel and for Continuance (ECF No. 84):

Much ink has been spilled in this case since JMU filed its Response in Opposition (ECF No. 84). Since that time, Plaintiff, who still has counsel of record, has filed, *pro se*, ECF Nos. 85-89, 91, 92, 94, and 97-100, and Plaintiff’s attorney of record has filed ECF No. 93. Without commenting on the veracity, or lack thereof, of any of Plaintiff’s *pro se* statements, JMU continues

to stand on its position taken in ECF No. 84 with the exception of **now withdrawing its objection to Plaintiff's attorney of record's motion to withdraw as counsel.**

Respectfully submitted,

**JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY**

**By counsel:**

/s/ Richard R. Shayegan  
Richard R. Shayegan (VSB No. 80919)  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
202 North 9th Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
Telephone: (804) 786-1109  
Facsimile: (804) 371-2087  
Email: *rshayegan@oag.state.va.us*  
*Counsel for Defendant JMU*

Jason S. Miyares  
Attorney General of Virginia

Steven G. Popp  
Deputy Attorney General

Jacqueline C. Hedblom  
Senior Assistant Attorney General/Trial Section Chief

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that, on this 2nd day of July 2025, the foregoing DEFENDANT JMU'S AMENDED RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFF'S MOTIONS FOR LEAVE TO WITHDRAW AS COUNSEL AND FOR CONTINUANCE was delivered through the CM/ECF system to be forwarded electronically to:

Tim Schulte, Esquire  
Shelley Cupp Schulte, P.C.  
3 West Cary Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23220  
[Schulte@scs-work.com](mailto:Schulte@scs-work.com)

Timothy E. Cupp, Esquire  
Shelley Cupp Schulte, P.C.  
1951 Evelyn Byrd Avenue, Suite D  
Harrisonburg, VA 22803  
[Cupp@scs-work.com](mailto:Cupp@scs-work.com)  
*Counsel for Plaintiff, Darla V. Edwards*

Heidi E. Siegmund, Esquire  
McGuire Woods LLP  
800 East Canal Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
[hsiegmund@mcguirewoods.com](mailto:hsiegmund@mcguirewoods.com)  
*Counsel for Defendants VES and Jennifer Stevens*

/s/ Richard R. Shayegan  
Richard R. Shayegan (VSB No. 80919)  
Assistant Attorney General

*Counsel for Defendant James Madison University*